

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 124721 TOSEC 020086

20

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 ISO-00 PCH-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CCO-00 H-02 EB-07 /057 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:HHLANGE:MHS

APPROVED BY EA:JOZURHELLEN

:MR. GOLDBERG

L/EA:CROH

EUR/WE:MHABIB

EUR/NE:SWORREL

S: JCOVEY

S/S:JLHOGANSON

D:RDUEMLING

----- 099411

O P 290245Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SUVA BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 124721 TOSEC 020086

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EINV, UK, FR, NH

ACTION MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT: SENATOR INOUE'S INTEREST IN NEW HEBRIDES LAND
PROBLEMS (S/S 7510904)

1. SENATOR INOUE'S OFFICE HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT
INOUE WILL BE SENDING TELEGRAM TO YOU IN BRUSSELS, ASKING
THAT YOU TAKE UP WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS
PROBLEMS FACED BY US CITIZEN PURCHASERS OF LAND IN
NEW HEBRIDES. INOUE IS APPARENTLY RECEIVING SHARPLY
INCREASED POLITICAL PRESSURE ON THIS AT HOME, AND IS EAGER
TO SHOW SOME PROGRESS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 124721 TOSEC 020086

2. YOU MAY RECALL THAT INOUE VISITED YOU IN DECEMBER TO
OUTLINE THIS PROBLEM AND TO PROPOSE SOLUTION. A NUMBER OF
US CITIZENS, INCLUDING SOME THREE THOUSAND HAWAIIANS, HAVE
PURCHASED SUBDIVISION LOTS FROM AMERICAN LAND DEVELOPERS

IN THE NEW HEBRIDES, WHICH IS JOINTLY ADMINISTERED BY UK AND FRANCE. NEW HEBRIDES AUTHORITIES ISSUED REGULATIONS IN 1971 WHICH HAVE THE EFFECT OF PREVENTING LEGAL REGISTRATION OF SUBDIVISIONS, THUS EFFECTIVELY PREVENTING PURCHASERS FROM USING OR RESELLING THEIR LOTS. LAND DEVELOPERS HAVE INITIATED LEGAL ACTION IN BRITISH COURTS IN NEW HEBRIDES AND IN FRENCH CONSEIL D'ETAT IN PARIS CHALLENGING VALIDITY OF 1971 REGULATION. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT LEGAL

PROCEEDINGS NOT YET CONCLUDED, BUT DECISION FROM FRENCH CONSEIL D'ETAT MAY COME SOON. INOUE'S SPECIFIC PROPOSAL WAS THAT AUTHORITIES PERMIT PURCHASERS TO REGISTER THEIR TITLES, BUT FOR LIMITED PURPOSE OF RESELLING TO OTHER BUYERS QUALIFIED UNDER NEW HEBRIDES LAW.

3. YOU INFORMED INOUE THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD TAKE UP MATTER INFORMALLY WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH, TO PRESENT HIS PROPOSAL AND TO SEE IF SOME WAY OF RESOLVING PROBLEM COULD BE FOUND. WE PRESENTED THIS TO BRITISH AND FRENCH EMBASSIES HERE AT WORKING LEVEL IN EARLY JANUARY. WE HAVE ONLY RECENTLY RECEIVED REACTION OF FRENCH, WHICH IS THAT MATTER STILL PENDING IN FRENCH COURTS AND THEREFORE NOT APPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATION. IN SPITE OF OUR PRODDING, WE STILL HAVE NO OFFICIAL RESPONSE FROM BRITISH, ALTHOUGH UNOFFICIAL OPINION OF EMBASSY HERE IS THAT WHEN IT COMES, REACTION UNLIKELY TO BE SATISFACTORY TO INOUE.

4. CONSIDERED JUDGMENT OF EA BUREAU IS THAT THIS MATTER WILL NOT GET MUCH ATTENTION IN LONDON OR PARIS UNLESS IT IS ESCALATED TO HIGHER LEVEL. INOUE IS DISSATISFIED AT LACK OF MOVEMENT ON ISSUE, AND BELIEVES HE HAD UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU PERSONALLY WOULD PURSUE THIS WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS HERE. BRINGING THIS UP WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT WE ARE TRYING TO HELP THE SENATOR. IT SHOULD ALSO SERVE TO FOCUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 124721 TOSEC 020086

ATTENTION OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS ON PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH ULTIMATE RESULT MAY NOT BE SATISFACTORY TO INOUE AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

5. IF, AS WE HAVE BEEN TOLD, SEN. INOUE SENDS A TELEGRAM TO YOU, RECOMMEND THAT YOU RAISE PROBLEM FACED BY U.S. PURCHASERS OF LAND IN THE NEW HEBRIDES WITH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS, SHOULD YOU HAVE APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO MEET WITH THEM AT BRUSSELS AND INTRODUCE THIS SUBJECT.

6. TALKING POINTS WITH THE FRENCH MINISTER:

A. OUR VIEWS ON THE NEW HEBRIDES LAND PROBLEM, AND SEN. INOUE'S PROPOSAL FOR RESOLVING IT, WERE CONVEYED TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN JANUARY.

B. WHILE WE ARE NOT FORMALLY ESPOUSING CLAIMS OF ANY PARTICULAR PARTY AT THIS TIME, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF SEVERAL THOUSAND AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO MAY LOSE A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THEIR SAVINGS BECAUSE OF THE RETROACTIVE REGULATIONS CONCERNING THEIR LAND PURCHASES IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.

C. WE UNDERSTAND THE DELICATE LOCAL POLITICAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN FOREIGN IMMIGRATION AND LAND ACQUISITION IN THE NEW HEBRIDES, BUT ASK THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT GIVE ITS ATTENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO REASONABLE MEASURES WHICH MIGHT ENABLE THE LAND PURCHASERS TO RECOUP INVESTMENTS MADE IN GOOD FAITH PRIOR TO ENACTMENT OF THE REGULATIONS.

D. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTION WHICH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT COULD OFFER THAT WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM EQUITABLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY.

7. TALKING POINTS WITH THE BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER:

(A) OUR VIEWS ON THE NEW HEBRIDES LAND PROBLEM, AND SEN. INOUE'S PROPOSAL FOR RESOLVING IT, WERE CONVEYED TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN JANUARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 124721 TOSEC 020086

(B) SEN. INOUE IS EXPERIENCING POLITICAL PRESSURE ON THIS, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE A RESPONSE.

(C) WHILE WE ARE NOT FORMALLY ESPOUSING THE CLAIM OF ANY PARTICULAR PARTY AT THIS TIME, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF SEVERAL THOUSAND AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO MAY LOSE A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THEIR SAVINGS BECAUSE OF THE RETROACTIVE REGULATIONS CONCERNING THEIR LAND PURCHASES IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.

(D) WE UNDERSTAND THE DELICATE LOCAL POLITICAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN FOREIGN IMMIGRATION AND LAND ACQUISITION IN THE NEW HEBRIDES, BUT ASK THAT HMG GIVE ITS ATTENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO REASONABLE MEASURES WHICH MIGHT ENABLE THE LAND PURCHASERS TO RECOUP INVESTMENTS MADE IN GOOD FAITH PRIOR TO ENACTMENT OF THE REGULATIONS.

(E) WE WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTION WHICH HMG COULD OFFER THAT WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM EQUITABLE AND EXPEDITIOUSLY.

.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT YOU RAISE PROBLEM OF AMERICAN LAND
PURCHASERS WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS,
USING ABOVE TALKING POINTS.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

DRAFTED BY EA; CLEARED WITH H, EUR, L, D (DUEMLING) AND
S(COVEY). INGERSOLL

NOTE BY OCT: POUCHED SUVA.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROCUREMENT, LAND, TOSEC 20086
Control Number: S7510904
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE124721
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/ANP:HHLANGE:MHS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750187-0243
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505104/baaaalbc.tel
Line Count: 177
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, EINV, UK, FR, NH, (INOUE, DANIEL K)
To: SECRETARY INFO LONDON
PARIS
SUVA BY POUCH
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006